

4/24/70

Paul, Gary, Howard, Dick and no one else, please,

I expect to show Paul the subject matter of the enclosed letter to Rhoads because I look forward to seeing him soon. I am not now distributing copies for a new of reasons, only one of which is the delicacy of several situations. If the contents were essential to the work any of you is engaged upon, I would find a way of communicating it. It relates to my own past work and, to the best of my recollection, no one else has done any work on or with it. It is something I have been repeatedly assured does not exist. It can, by itself, have very considerable value. I think it does. However, as I think most of you understand, there are many things I seek, many things I plan, some I believe I either know or understand, and I thus regard the enclosures as a beginning rather than as an end. I want nothing to interfere with what can follow, what I want to follow, and what I think, if this and I can be let alone, will follow.

In the letter I avoid letting Rhoads know what I know of what he has withheld from me. There are many good reasons for this. One, it represents something entirely new in suppression, something I think is entirely untenable, and since, with a rather considerable investment in time, I have, with his stupid collaboration, brought about a situation he will find entirely untenable and completely indefensible save in one way. So far as I am concerned, he can save that for court, where I have every intent of giving him the chance of expressing it. If he does, we may ~~obtain some satisfaction and some progress made, including in public understanding. If he does not, I think it not impossible he will face a set of decidedly uncongenial problems. You realize this is something the Secret Service has given him for me. If it ever was declassified, they declassified it. If it is now classified, only Rhoads could have done this, and his authority is in neither law nor regulation. I know GSA is in on this, and I suspect the notion was not theirs. You should not need too many guesses, nor should you have to wonder much about how anyone besides Rhoads knew he had it. It was not in the Federal Register, not on radio, TV or in the newspapers.~~ find some satisfaction and some progress made, including in public understanding. If he does not, I think it not impossible he will face a set of decidedly uncongenial problems. You realize this is something the Secret Service has given him for me. If it ever was declassified, they declassified it. If it is now classified, only Rhoads could have done this, and his authority is in neither law nor regulation. I know GSA is in on this, and I suspect the notion was not theirs. You should not need too many guesses, nor should you have to wonder much about how anyone besides Rhoads knew he had it. It was not in the Federal Register, not on radio, TV or in the newspapers.

It is not that I am keeping this secret from you. I do want to reserve it for my own first use, but I will share it, if it interests any of you. It is, rather, that I do not want to add to the more than adequate number of existing complications with any needless risk. Believe me, in terms of knowledge, it adds nothing to what I have already published and each of you has. This is not its value and significance.

There is also the possibility this action may make the Secret Service a bit uncomfortable. In time, I think I'll know. If this turns out to be the case, it will not be against the interest of truth and its ultimate establishment.

When I can replenish my supply of paper, there can be copies of the Rhoads letter for you. I have already sent you copies of that part to which I'd earlier responded. I did wait a week to answer the beginning.

The unsubtle request for copies of the Freedom of Information forms are not an idle threat. I've appealed, for Rhoads wrote me he'd forward my letter through channels. If I do not have response within reasonable time, which means unless I have what I've asked for or have it rejected, I can then proceed to decide what to file for. Bud has just completed the extra brief that kept him busy. I'll be seeing him with this Monday and we can decide whether the administrative remedies part is satisfied. If not, we will proceed with that. When we told Justice we'd give them no more time on the King-Ray matter, they know we are ready and anxious. When they asked for more time, we know they do not want this in court. I think everyone will read this pretty clearly. I'll keep you posted, probably. HW